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General Assembly

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A/C.6/52/L.1
19 September 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
SIXTH COMMITTEE

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Secretariat

1. In order to assist the Sixth Committee in the organization of its work, the Secretariat finds it appropriate, in the light of General Assembly resolutions 1898 (XVIII) of 11 November 1963 and 32/71 of 9 December 1977 and of rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to draw the Sixth Committee's attention to the following.

I. ITEMS ALLOCATED TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly decided to allocate 10 items to the Sixth Committee. The titles of these items and their numbers are reproduced in the letter dated 19 September 1997 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/52/1).

II. DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO THE ITEMS ALLOCATED TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

3. The following table lists the documents of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee. It includes references to the reports of commissions or committees and the reports that are to be submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions or decisions of preceding sessions of the Assembly, as well as to the documents circulated under the agenda items allocated to the Sixth Committee,* in accordance with requests of Member States.

* The figure in brackets after the title of each item indicates its number on the agenda of the fifty-second session. The listing of documents is based on information available as at 19 September 1997.

	Projected date of issuance
Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property [144]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/52/294)	Issued
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law [145]	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/52/)	Early November
United Nations Decade of International Law [146]	
(a) United Nations Decade of International Law	
(b) Action to be taken in 1999 dedicated to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law	
(c) Draft guiding principles for international negotiations	
Note by the Secretary-General (A/52/363)	Early October
Letter dated 12 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/141)	Issued
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-ninth session [147]	
Report of the Commission, Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/52/10)	Issued
Letter dated 23 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/259 and Corr.1)	Issued
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirtieth session [148]	
Report of the Commission, Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/52/17)	24 September
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [149]	
Report of the Committee, Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 26 (A/52/26)	Early November

Projected date of issuance

Establishment of an international criminal court [150]

No advance documentation[1]

Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [151]

Report of the Special Committee, Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 33 (A/52/33) ..... Issued

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/52/308) ..... Issued

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the publication of supplements to the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and the Repertoire of Practice of the Security Council (A/52/317) ..... Early October

Letter dated 19 June 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/189) ..... Issued

Measures to eliminate international terrorism [152]

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/52/37) ..... Issued

Report of the Secretary-General (A/52/304) ..... 23 September

Letter dated 10 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/58-S/1997/30) ..... Issued

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[1] For the decisions taken by the Preparatory Committee at its session held from 11 to 21 February 1997, see document A/AC.249/1997/L.5. For the decisions taken by the Committee at its session held from 4 to 15 August 1997, see document A/AC.249/1997/L.8/Rev.1.

Projected date of issuance

Letters dated 23 January, 3 March and 11 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/63-S/1997/70, A/52/87-S/1997/187 and A/52/276-S/1997/630) ..... Issued

Letters dated 3 February, 5 June, 1 August and 4 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative and Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/70-S/1997/108, A/52/173, A/52/265-S/1997/604 and A/52/321-S/1997/689) ..... Issued

Letter dated 12 September 1997 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/346-S/1997/710) ..... Issued

Amendment to article 13 of the statute of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal [155]

Note by the Secretary-General

(A/52/142) ..... Issued

(A/52/142/Add.1) ..... 22 September

III. DATE FOR CONCLUDING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE, ORDER AND APPROXIMATE DATES OF CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS

4. Rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that:

> "Each Main Committee, taking into account the closing date for the session fixed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall adopt its own priorities and meet as may be necessary to complete the consideration of the items referred to it. It shall at the beginning of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item."

5. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly decided that the fifty-second session should recess not later than Tuesday, 16 December 1997. Under the circumstances, it appears advisable that the Sixth Committee should arrange its schedule of meetings in such a way that it will conclude its work not later than Friday, 21 November 1997.

6. The Sixth Committee may wish to consider, for the purpose of adopting its programme of work, the following timetable, drawn up on the basis of the relevant General Assembly resolutions as well as previous programmes of work adopted by the Committee, which indicates approximate dates of consideration of agenda items referred to it:

	Approximate dates of consideration
Measures to eliminate international terrorism [152] (Working Group)[2]	22 September-3 October 1997
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirtieth session [148]	6-7 October
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [151]	8-13 October
United Nations Decade of International Law [146] ..	14-20 October
Establishment of an international criminal court [150]	21-23 October
Amendment to article 13 of the Statute of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal [155]	24 October
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-ninth session [147][3]	27 October-7 November
Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property [144]	10-11 November
Measures to eliminate international terrorism [152]	12-17 November
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law [145]	18 November
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [149]	19 November
Reserve	20-21 November

[2] See para. 7 below.

[3] See para. 10 below.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS AND HOLDING OF CONSULTATIONS

7. Concerning agenda item 152, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", the General Assembly, at its fifty-first session recommended that the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by resolution 51/210 continue during the fifty-second session of the General Assembly from 22 September to 3 October 1997 in the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee (resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996).

8. As regards agenda item 146, "United Nations Decade of International Law", the General Assembly at its fifty-first session requested the Working Group of the Sixth Committee on the item to continue its work at the fifty-second session in accordance with its mandate and methods of work (resolution 51/157 of 16 December 1996).

9. Since the conference services to be provided for meetings of the working groups and for the holding of informal consultations are those allocated to the Sixth Committee, it is important that such meetings and consultations be held in place of, rather than in addition to, meetings of the Committee.

V. COLLOQUIUM ON PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND CODIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

10. The General Assembly, at its fifty-first session, requested the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the International Law Commission through a colloquium on the progressive development and codification of international law, to be held during the consideration in the Sixth Committee of the report of the Commission on the work of its forty-ninth session (resolution 51/160 of 16 December 1996). The colloquium will consist of three sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon of 28 October, and one in the morning of 29 October 1997.

VI. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS WITH FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. According to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, "no resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General". It is therefore imperative that the Main Committees allow sufficient time for the preparation of the estimates of expenditures by the Secretariat and for their consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and by the Fifth Committee. Under the circumstances, if Friday, 21 November 1997, is accepted as the concluding date for the work of the Sixth Committee (see para. 5 above), Monday, 10 November 1997, would have to be considered as the mandatory deadline for submission to the Fifth Committee of draft resolutions with financial implications.

VII. CONFERENCE RESOURCES AVAILABLE

12. The available conference facilities will, in principle, enable the Committee to hold an average of six plenary meetings per week and the Working Group referred to in paragraph 7 above to hold 10 meetings per week. Normally, morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and afternoon meetings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

13. In order to avoid difficulties in the organization of services for the meetings of regional groups of the Committee, it is suggested that all requests for such meetings be channelled to the Planning and Meetings Services Section through the Secretary of the Committee.

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Fifty-second session
SIXTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 146 (b)

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW: ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN 1999 DEDICATED TO THE CENTENNIAL OF THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE AND TO THE CLOSING OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Netherlands and Russian Federation: draft resolution

Action to be taken dedicated to the 1999[1] centennial of the First International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming once again the commitment of the United Nations and its Member States, as well as the States party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, to the goals and aspirations of the United Nations Decade of International Law, expressed by the General Assembly in subsequent resolutions under that item of its agenda,[2]

Mindful of the long and well-established tradition of progressive development and codification of international law, marked by the first and the second International Peace Conferences, held at The Hague in 1899 and 1907 respectively,

Recalling that the third International Peace Conference, which was meant to be held at The Hague in 1915, did not take place,

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[1] The order of wording has been changed in view of the proposed preparatory events before 1999.

[2] Notably resolutions 44/23 of 17 November 1989 and 51/157 of 16 December 1996.

Recalling also the proposal by the Russian Federation for a third international peace conference with a view to considering international law and order in the post-cold-war world at the threshold of the twenty-first century, referred to in resolution 51/159 of 16 December 1996, and the initiatives undertaken by the Kingdom of the Netherlands with regard to the commemoration of the first International Peace Conference,

Recalling further that in the same resolution, the General Assembly invited the Governments of the Russian Federation and the Netherlands to arrange, as a matter of urgency, a preliminary discussion with other interested Member States on the substantive content of action to be taken in 1999 and to seek, in this respect, the cooperation of the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, relevant intergovernmental organizations as well as other relevant organizations,

Noting, in this respect, that a meeting of the "Friends of 1999" took place on 22 April 1997 at the Peace Palace, The Hague, to which representatives of 20 States from all regions of the world, the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the coalition of non-governmental organizations Hague Appeal for Peace were invited for consultations on proposals for a draft programme of action for the centennial of the first International Peace Conference,

Noting with satisfaction that the realization of all those proposals in the Programme of Action dedicated to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference, presented by the Netherlands and the Russian Federation,[1] is consistent with the goals and aspirations of the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Noting also that the Programme of Action inter alia calls for the presentation of the results of the centennial discussions to the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fifty-fourth session, at the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Noting further that the Programme of Action does not entail budgetary implications for the United Nations,

1. Welcomes the Programme of Action dedicated to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference, presented by the Governments of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and of the Russian Federation, which aims at contributing to the further development of the themes of the first and the second International Peace Conferences and could be regarded as a third International Peace Conference;

2. Invites:

(a) The Governments of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and of the Russian Federation to proceed with the implementation of the Programme of Action;

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[1] A/52/...

(b) All States to participate in the activities set out in the Programme of Action, as well as to initiate such activities and to coordinate their efforts in this respect at the global level, as well as at the regional and national levels;

(c) All States to take appropriate measures to ensure universal participation in the activities pursuant to the Programme of Action, with special consideration for the participation of representatives of the least developed countries;

3. Calls upon the competent United Nations organs, subsidiary organs, programmes and specialized agencies, including the International Court of Justice, the International Law Commission and the Secretariat, within their respective mandates, competencies and budgets, as well as upon other international organizations:

(a) To cooperate in the implementation of the Programme of Action and to coordinate their efforts in this respect;

(b) To consider participation in the activities envisaged in the Programme of Action;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure consistency of the Organization's activities relating to the closing of the Decade of International Law with the Programme of Action and to direct his efforts accordingly;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session, under the item entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law", a sub-item entitled "Progress in the action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law".